



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

NOVEMBER, 1854.

HOPE FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE

FROM THE PRESENT WAR.

There are some aspects of this war that may well encourage the friends of peace. Though a libel on the religion of Christendom, and a stigma on her boasted civilization, we still discover in its rise, and its progress thus far, indications of important changes for the better since the commencement of their labors near the time of Napoleon's downfall in 1815.

How different now the general tone of sentiment! Bad enough still, we grant, in most respects; a vast deal that is yet wrong in the logic and spirit of the press on both sides of the Atlantic; but far less of the old genuine war-spirit and vengeance, of popular madness and brutal ferocity, than prevailed in the long wars consequent on the first French revolution of 1792, or in either of our own wars with Great Britain. The full force of this comparison between the past and the present, cannot be felt by the mass of the new generation now on the stage; but the few whose personal observations extend to both periods, must be strongly impressed in favor of the latter, as indicating a marked and most auspicious change in public opinion.

Observe, also, the unwonted delay and reluctance of the parties in entering upon the war. The rulers, especially of England and France, seem to have done all they could, consistently with the war-code of Christendom, to avoid an appeal to arms, and drew the sword only when they supposed the general welfare of Europe imperatively demanded it. Half a century before, they would have begun the war a whole year sooner than they did; a delay that has already saved an immense amount of evil, and will yet prevent, in all probability, a vast deal more.

The very outset of this war, moreover, marked an important amelioration of the custom,—*the abolition of Privateering*. France and England concurred in refusing to issue letters of marque and reprisals; and such refusal puts of course a stop to this species of legalized piracy during the present war, and may prevent its recurrence in all the future wars of Christendom.

VOLUME, XI. — NO. XI.

We may fairly regard it as the starting-point of a permanent change in civilized warfare; a change that will probably save scores, if not hundreds of millions of property in the present war, and myriads on myriads in future wars. Ships of war will of course capture or destroy the enemy's property; but there can be, under the new regime, none of that privateering which, in all past wars, covered the ocean with the wrecks of commerce, and rolled a tide of demoralization over society. It is well-nigh impossible to conceive how much evil will be prevented, how vast an amount of property and of life will be saved, by this single amelioration in the practice of war; an improvement of incalculable importance, and sufficient of itself to compensate, a thousand times over, all the efforts of the friends of peace during their forty years of labor in this cause. Had they accomplished nothing more, they would, for this alone, deserve the gratitude of all coming ages.

Every one must, also, have observed, that the present war, though bad enough in all conscience, is still conducted in a way less barbarous and brutal than former wars. There is an obvious effort to render it as humane as possible, to mitigate its necessary evils, and to have the smallest amount of hard fighting that will suffice for the accomplishment of its object. Both parties have seemed to shrink from a real death-grapple, and to hope that a final adjustment might yet be reached without pushing the contest to the utmost extremes of mutual havoc and vengeance.

Such indications promise, also, a much speedier termination of the war than would once have been possible. A war like this, if begun any time in the last century, could hardly have been brought to a close in less than ten or fifteen years; and it may now last even longer than this; but there is certainly good reason to hope for an adjustment of the controversy without many years of fierce, reckless, vindictive fighting. Almost every thing about the contest points to an early termination. The parties seem fully aware, that the utmost slaughter and devastation can never settle the dispute, and can at best do no more than prompt them to an adjustment by rational and peaceful measures; a lesson of practical wisdom patent to every eye from past history, but strangely disregarded hitherto, and even now but slowly learned, and still more reluctantly put in practice. There are, we sadly admit, fearful possibilities in the case, and the progress of the contest may yet exasperate the parties into long years of mutual wholesale havoc and mischief, that shall desolate or convulse nearly all Europe; but most of its omens thus far indicate a war not half as protracted, nor half as productive of evil, as the spirit and habits of one century ago would have rendered inevitable.

We might gather from this war still further grounds of hope for the Cause of Peace; but we have already mentioned enough to prove such a degree of progress as ought to encourage its friends in their great and good work. How little did its early champions, its Worcesters and Ladds, imagine it would accomplish so much, with means so slender, in the short space of less than forty years! It is a marvel that any of its friends should

“bate a jot of heart or hope” at the occurrence of one serious war in forty years. Is it possible they could have expected, that a few thousand dollars a year spent in the cause of peace, would, in less than half a century, put a stop to all actual wars, and either destroy, or hold in perpetual check, a custom that has been for more than five thousand years rooting itself in the world’s habits, and is still sustained in all the vigor which the wealth, and power, and prestige of Christendom can give it? The real wonder is, that the cause of peace, with the pittance of means at its command, should have accomplished half or a tithe of what it has; and its friends, so far from abating either hope or zeal, should thank God, take courage, and gird themselves anew for their work.

WARRIORS PRAISING ONE ANOTHER. — It is painfully amusing to hear antagonists in war extol each other. The inconsistency is glaring and horrid; for the justification of one side involves an utter condemnation of the other. Both cannot be justified; and, if one is right, the other must be wrong. Warriors excuse the wholesale butchery of enemies, only on the ground of its being indispensable to punish or prevent their guilt; but, if so guilty as to deserve such summary and terrific vengeance, it must be as much out of place to compliment them for their noble deeds, or noble traits of character, as it would be in the hangman to eulogize the pirate or assassin whom he executes.

Yet how often do we hear such language as the following: “In the battle of the Pyrenees, the French troops,” says the English historian, “fought with great gallantry and resolution. Marshal Soult himself was personally very conspicuous, and narrowly escaped being made prisoner. His officers also distinguished themselves *most honorably*. It is but an act of justice to observe, that the generals and soldiers of *both armies covered themselves with glory!* Marshal Soult, though defeated, *deserves high praise.*”

It is not uncommon for antagonists in war to bandy such compliments; but how strange that they should not see in such praises of their enemy a virtual condemnation of themselves! If so *honorable, so covered with glory, so deserving of high praise*, why attempt to blow out their brains? Is it honorable, or right, or consistent thus to treat such *noble and glorious* men? How strange to mingle such praises with such treatment. PACIFICUS.

CAUSES OF WAR. — For eighty-seven years the Portuguese, Dutch, English, and French, disputed the possession of an insignificant little island, called Arquin, on the coast of Africa, about two miles long, and not quite so wide. It is now abandoned as not worth anybody’s possession; and we dare say scarce one in ten ever even heard its name. It is mentioned in none of our works on geography, and its precise location is hardly known. Such are the causes of war; and on such pretexts are blood and treasure wasted.